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## **JOINT INVESTIGATION**

January 20, 2000

### Subject Sentenced in Canadian Court for Hacking into United States Government Computer Systems

JASON G. MEWHINEY, age 22, pled guilty on January 17, 2000, in the Superior Court of Justice in the Province of Ontario, Canada, to twelve counts of computer crime charges relating to intrusions into U.S. government computers which occurred from May 1996, through April 1997.

MEWHINEY was originally indicted on April 1, 1999, in a 51-count indictment in the Superior Court of Justice in Ontario. The criminal activities that he ultimately pled guilty to included the destruction of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Web Page, the intrusion into NASA's computer system with the intent to damage on six separate occasions, the intrusion into the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) computer system with intent to damage, the interception of data in NOAA's computer system on three separate occasions, and a probation violation.

After the joint submission on January 17, MEWHINEY, a resident of Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, was sentenced to six months incarceration on each of the twelve counts, to run concurrently. He was taken into custody immediately following Monday's proceedings to begin serving his sentence.

The case was opened in October 1996, upon receipt of a complaint from NOAA regarding an intrusion into the NOAA system. During the course of the investigation, it was subsequently determined that NASA had also been the subject of a computer intrusion and in response, the Office of Inspector General (OIG), NASA, assigned NASA-OIG Special Agent personnel to the investigation.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) were instrumental in this investigation in determining the identity of the subject and that he was a Canadian citizen and resident and in conducting a search of the subject's residence in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.

Investigation into this matter was conducted jointly by the FBI's Washington Field Office Computer Crimes Squad, the Office of the Inspector General, NASA, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.